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Interior
T65/ TL3329
Junho/88

NEWS FROM EAST TIMOR

1. a) DOMINGOS DA COSTA GUTERRES: ex-Commander of the Shock Brigade of Fretilin. After his surrender, he was enlisted in the Hansip Battalion at Venilale Post.
On the 24th February 1988, Domingos da Costa Guterres was treacherously shot to death by the Indonesian forces of Battalion 721 while patrolling in the suco of Cumuoli (Venilale). After his death those Indonesian military murderers, inhumanly, buried the body, leaving the head exposed.

   b) GASPAR: Hansip of Venilale Post, on the 24th February 1988, was treacherously shot to death, together with Domingos da Costa Guterres in the suco of Cumuoli (Venilale), by the murderous Indonesian forces of Battalion 721.

   The treacherous death of these two Timorese caused a great reaction and led to exchanges of gunfire between the murdering forces of Battalion 721 (Javanese) and the Hansip forces (Timorese) for two hours, ceasing only with the intervention of the Indonesian military and civil authorities of the area.

   The Commander of the Hansips, Virgilio da Costa Guterres, wanted to bring the case of the treacherous killing of the two soldiers to the courts of justice, but the local civil and military authorities of Indonesia boycotted it.

2. The Catholic people, believers in the supernatural power of God, are acclaiming in religious procession, in every corner of the eastern end of the island, the statue of Holy Mary, as their Intermediary, Patroness and Helper for Peace and Justice in a free and independent East Timor for the progress and prosperity of the Timorese. The procession began in August last year, beginning in Liquiça, Ermera and border regions, going on to the central and eastern regions of the island. During the procession, the Fretilin guerrillas have also been sending their representatives to clandestinely participate in the procession, because they also are and consider themselves Catholics, acclaiming Holy Mary as their Mother and Queen for the Peace of East Timor.

   In the beginning of last February, when the procession of Holy Mary passed through the Aileu region, the guerrillas, as usual, sent some of their members to clandestinely take part in the procession. However, unhappily, two of their members were detected and arrested by the murdering forces of Indonesia, and, after having been barbarously and inhumanly tortured, were eliminated.

   The guerrillas, outraged with the loss of their members, attacked the post of Lequidoe in the Aileu region and killed 6 Javanese, including a Babinsa and a local policeman.

   In the processions held in the regions of Vemasse - Laleia - Manatuto - Laclubar, Soibada and other regions of the eastern zone, the arches along the roads which link the above-mentioned towns were made by Fretilin guerrillas who then retired to the edges of the roads, taking part and praying to their Intermediary Holy Mary, asking Her to intercede on their behalf for a future East Timor free, independent and prosperous for all Timorese in their Homeland.

So great is the faith and confidence of the Timorese people in GOD that, everywhere that the statue of Holy Mary passes, the people pray to God and supplicate a true and just peace for their Land, with eyes moist with tears, through their Intermediary Holy Mary.

3. On 2nd March 1988, another two hundred (200) Indonesian Red Beret soldiers, mobilized from Cijantung and Tangerang, were sent to East Timor in order to continue the cleaning-up operation of Fretilin guerrillas in the mountains in the interior of the island.

   These soldiers were landed in Baucau at 10.00 a.m. from large military planes, from where they were sent on to the zones of Baucau, Viqueque and Los Palos.

4. At the end of last March, in Viqueque, nine (9) Indonesian soldiers were killed in an ambush carried out by Fretilin guerrillas. The arms and munitions with kit-bags were captured by the guerrillas and taken to their bases.

5. In the beginning of April, in Lospalos, the guerrillas attacked a Red Beret section, killing two (2) of the members by grenades. The remainder, wounded, managed to escape death, due to support from their nearby forces.

6. On 7th May 1988, at 7.15 a.m., in an ambush between the areas of Manatuto and Laleia, Fretilin guerrillas destroyed a HINO truck, killing twenty (20) Indonesian soldiers and six (6) Hansips, demonstrating to the powerful Indonesian Army that both military resistance and passive resistance continue in the mountains and towns of East Timor, for as long as the Indonesian soldiers do not withdraw definitively from their Territory, East Timor.
   The armaments and munitions of the soldiers killed in that ambush were captured and taken away by the guerrillas.

7. Recently, on 23 May 1988, there was an attack in Viqueque, causing some deaths and wounded among the Indonesian soldiers.
   The procession of Holy Mary which was passing near there was obliged by the Indonesian forces and authorities to halt during the attack.
   The situation having returned to normal, the procession continued from the town of Viqueque to Uatulari with the participation of Fretilin guerrillas who, together with the local population, eyes moist with tears, prayed and supplicated God, through their Intermediary Mother, a true and just peace for the People of East Timor.
   There was no military reaction on the part of the Indonesians, in spite of the presence of the Fretilin guerrillas in the sacred procession.

"Indonesia", 28th May 1988.

From the Secret Committee of the Timorese Students' Union for the Independence of East Timor.

Signed: Maubukar C.